



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  

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STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

May 22, 2008

William L. Rich, III, MD, FACS  
Chairman  
Relative Value Scale Update Committee  
American Medical Association  
515 North State Street  
Chicago IL 60610

Dear Dr. Rich:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents over 93,000 physicians and medical students nationwide, I am writing to thank the Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) for its efforts in recommending work values and practice expense inputs for the care management codes that will be used in the Medicare medical home demonstration project.

The short timeframe that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) gave the RUC to submit its recommendations required a significant commitment on behalf of both the members of the medical home workgroup and the staff of the specialty societies and the American Medical Association. The fact that all involved were able to meet CMS's request in the time allotted by CMS is impressive!

We believe that the patient-centered medical home is a most effective tool for improving health care quality for the patient and reducing costs for both payers and patients. We expect that the results of the Medicare medical home demonstration project will provide substantial evidence on the effectiveness of this tool. The RUC's work on this project is an important part of defining and quantifying the resources that are associated with this new model of care.

In closing, the AAFP thanks the RUC and especially the members of the medical home workgroup for their cooperation, constructive input, and commitment during this process. The resulting product is a testament to the effort that went into it, and we appreciate the RUC undertaking this important work.

Sincerely,

Rick Kellerman, M.D.  
Board Chair

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